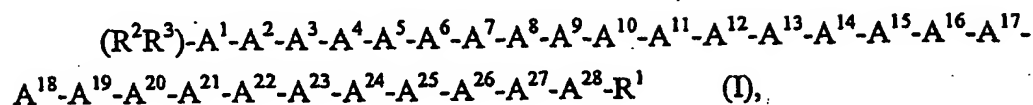


Claims

1. A compound according to formula (I):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

A^1 is Gly, Aib, Ala, β -Ala, or Acc;

A^2 is Ser, Aib, Act, Ala, Acc, Abu, Act, Ava, Thr, or Val;

A^3 is Ser, Ser(C(O)- R^4), Asp(O- R^8), Asp(NH- R^9), Cys(S- R^{14}), Dap(S(O)₂- R^{10}), Dab(S(O)₂- R^{11}), Glu(O- R^6), Glu(NH- R^7), Thr, Thr(C(O)- R^5), or HN-CH((CH₂)_n-N($R^{12}R^{13}$))-C(O);

A^4 is Phe, Acc, Aic, Cha, 2Fua, 1Nal, 2Nal, 2Pal, 3Pal, 4Pal, hPhe, (X^1, X^2, X^3, X^4, X^5)Phe, Taz, 2Thi, 3Thi, Trp, or Tyr;

A^5 is Leu, Abu, Acc, Aib, Ala, Cha, Ile, hLeu, Nle, Nva, Phe, Tle, or Val;

A^6 is Ser, Abu, Acc, Act, Aib, Ala, Gly, Thr, or Val;

A^7 is Pro, Dhp, Dmt, 3Hyp, 4Hyp, Inc, Ktp, Oic, Pip, Thz, Tic, or deleted;

A^8 is Glu, Acc, Aib, Arg, Asn, Asp, Dab, Dap, Gln, Lys, Orn, HN-CH((CH₂)_n-N($R^{12}R^{13}$))-C(O), or deleted;

A^9 is His, Apc, Aib, Acc, 2Fua, 2Pal, 3Pal, 4Pal, Taz, 2Thi, 3Thi, (X^1, X^2, X^3, X^4, X^5)Phe or deleted;

A^{10} is Gln, Acc, Aib, Asn, Asp, Glu, or deleted;

A^{11} is Arg, Apc, hArg, Dab, Dap, Lys, Orn, HN-CH((CH₂)_n-N($R^{12}R^{13}$))-C(O), or deleted;

A^{12} is Val, Abu, Acc, Aib, Ala, Cha, Nva, Gly, Ile, Leu, Nle, Tle, Cha, or deleted;

A¹³ is Gln, Acc, Aib, Asn, Asp, Glu, or deleted;

A¹⁴ is Gln, Acc, Aib, Asn, Asp, Glu, or deleted;

A¹⁵ is Arg, hArg, Acc, Aib, Apc, Dab, Dap, Lys, Orn, HN-CH((CH₂)_n-N(R¹²R¹³))-C(O), or deleted;

A¹⁶ is Lys, Acc, Aib, Apc, Arg, hArg, Dab, Dap, Orn, HN-CH((CH₂)_n-N(R¹²R¹³))-C(O), or deleted;

A¹⁷ is Glu, Arg, Asn, Asp, Dab, Dap, Gln, Lys, Orn, HN-CH((CH₂)_n-N(R¹²R¹³))-C(O), or deleted;

A¹⁸ is Ser, Abu, Acc, Act, Aib, Ala, Thr, Val, or deleted;

A¹⁹ is Lys, Acc, Aib, Apc, Arg, hArg, Dab, Dap, Orn, HN-CH((CH₂)_n-N(R¹²R¹³))-C(O), or deleted;

A²⁰ is Lys, Acc, Aib, Apc, Arg, hArg, Dab, Dap, Orn, HN-CH((CH₂)_n-N(R¹²R¹³))-C(O), or deleted;

A²¹ is Pro, Dhp, Dmt, Inc, 3Hyp, 4Hyp, Ktp, Oic, Pip, Thz, Tic, or deleted;

A²² is Pro, Dhp, Dmt, 3Hyp, 4Hyp, Inc, Ktp, Oic, Pip, Thz, Tic, or deleted;

A²³ is Abu, Acc, Act, Aib, Ala, Apc, Gly, Nva, Val, or deleted;

A²⁴ is Lys, Acc, Aib, Apc, Arg, hArg, Dab, Dap, Orn, HN-CH((CH₂)_n-N(R¹²R¹³))-C(O), or deleted;

A²⁵ is Leu, Abu, Acc, Aib, Ala, Cha, Ile, hLeu, Nle, Nva, Phe, Tle, Val, or deleted;

A²⁶ is Gln, Aib, Asn, Asp, Glu, or deleted;

A²⁷ is Pro, Dhp, Dmt, 3Hyp, 4Hyp, Inc, Ktp, Oic, Pip, Thz, Tic, or deleted;

A²⁸ is Acc, Aib, Apc, Arg, hArg, Dab, Dap, Lys, Orn, HN-CH((CH₂)_n-N(R¹²R¹³))-C(O), or deleted;

R^1 is -OH, -NH₂, -(C₁-C₃₀)alkoxy, or NH-X⁶-CH₂-Z⁰, wherein X⁶ is a (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkenyl, and Z⁰ is -H, -OH, -CO₂H or -C(O)-NH₂;

R^2 and R^3 each is, independently for each occurrence, H, (C₁-C₂₀)alkyl or (C₁-C₂₀)acyl;

R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} , R^{11} and R^{14} each is, independently for each occurrence, (C₁-C₄₀)alkyl, (C₂-C₄₀)alkenyl, substituted (C₁-C₄₀) alkyl, substituted (C₂-C₄₀) alkenyl, alkylaryl, substituted alkylaryl, aryl or substituted aryl;

R^{12} and R^{13} each is, independently for each occurrence, H, (C₁-C₄₀)alkyl, (C₁-C₄₀)acyl, (C₁-C₃₀)alkylsulfonyl, or -C(NH)-NH₂, wherein when R^{12} is (C₁-C₄₀)acyl, (C₁-C₃₀)alkylsulfonyl, or -C(NH)-NH₂, then R^{13} is H or (C₁-C₄₀)alkyl;

n is, independently for each occurrence, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5;

X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , and X^5 each is, independently for each occurrence, H, F, Cl, Br, I, (C₁₋₁₀)alkyl, substituted (C₁₋₁₀)alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, OH, NH₂, NO₂, or CN;

provided that the peptide contains at least one amino acid selected from the groups consisting of:

A^2 is Aib, Acc, or Act;

A^3 is Dap(S(O)₂-R¹⁰), Dab(S(O)₂-R¹¹), Glu(NH-Hexyl), or Cys(S-Decyl);

A^5 is Abu, Acc, Aib, Ala, Cha, Ile, hLeu, Nle, Nva, Phe, Tle, or Val;

A^6 is Abu, Acc, Act, Aib, Ala, Gly, Thr or Val;

A^7 is Dhp, Dmt, 3Hyp, 4Hyp, Inc, Ktp, Oic, Pip, Thz or Tic;

A^8 is Acc, Aib, Arg, Asn, Asp, Dab, Dap, Gln, Lys, Orn, or HN-CH((CH₂)_n-N(R¹²R¹³))-C(O);

A^9 is Aib, Acc, Apc, 2Fua, 2Pal, 3Pal, 4Pal, Taz, 2Thi, 3Thi, or (X¹,X²,X³,X⁴,X⁵-)Phe; and

A¹⁰ is Acc, Aib, Asn, Asp, or Glu;

and further provided that the peptide is not (Lys⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂ or (Arg⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein

A¹ is Gly or Aib;

A² is Ser, Aib, A5c, Act, or Ava;

A³ is Ser(C(O)-R⁴), Glu(O-R⁶), Glu(NH-R⁷), Dap(S(O)₂-R¹⁰), or Dab(S(O)₂-R¹¹);

A⁴ is Phe;

A⁵ is Leu, Acc, Aib, Cha, or hLeu;

A⁶ is Ser, Abu, Act, Aib, or Thr;

A⁷ is Pro, Dhp, Dmt, 4Hyp, Ktp, Pip, Tic, or Thz;

A⁸ is Glu or Aib;

A⁹ is His, Aib, Apc, 2Fua, 2Pal, 3Pal, 4Pal, Taz, or 2Thi;

A¹⁰ is Gln or Aib;

A¹¹ is Arg;

A¹² is Aib, Val or Acc;

A¹³ is Gln;

A¹⁴ is Gln;

A¹⁵ is Arg or Orn;

A¹⁶ is Lys or Apc;

A¹⁷ is Glu;

A¹⁸ is Ser;

A¹⁹ is Lys;

A²⁰ is Lys;

A²¹ is Pro;

A²² is Pro;

A²³ is Ala;
A²⁴ is Lys;
A²⁵ is Leu;
A²⁶ is Gln;
A²⁷ is Pro; and
A²⁸ is Arg.

3. The compound of claim 2, wherein
R² and R³ each is, independently, H, Acyl, n-butyryl, isobutyryl, or n-octanoyl;

R⁴ is octyl;
R⁶ is hexyl;
R⁷ is hexyl;
R¹⁰ is octyl; and
R¹¹ is octyl, wherein
Acc is, independently for each occurrence, A5c or A6c.

4. The compound of claim 3, selected from:
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², A6c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A6c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6})hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², A5c¹²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Act⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dmt⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Aib², Thz⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A5c²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Act²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², A5c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², A6c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,5})hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², hLeu⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Cha⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6})hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Act⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Abu⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thz⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Pip⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dhp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ktp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8})hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 2Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 2Fua⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Apc⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,9})hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,10})hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Tic⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Aib⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A5c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A6c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Act⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dmt⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Thz⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(hLeu⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Cha⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Thr⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Abu⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Pip⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dhp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ktp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁸)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(2Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(2Fua⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Apc⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib¹⁰)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A6c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A6c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Aib^{2,6}, Dap³(Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A5c¹²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Act⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Dmt⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Thz⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A5c², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Act², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A5c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,5}, Dap³(Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), hLeu⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Cha⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, Dap³(Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Thr⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Abu⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Pip⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Dhp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Ktp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8}, Dap³(Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 2Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 2Fua⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Aib², Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Apc⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,9}, Dap³(Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,10}, Dap³(Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A6c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Aib⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A5c¹²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Act⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Dmt⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Thz⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A5c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Aib⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), hLeu⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Cha⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Thr⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Abu⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Pip⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Dbp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Ktp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Aib⁸)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 2Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), 2Fua⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Apc⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Aib⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), Aib¹⁰)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dab³(Octanesulfonyl), A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², A6c⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A6c⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Act⁶, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 3Pal⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dmt⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thz⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², A5c⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,5}, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², hLeu⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Cha⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr⁶, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Abu⁶, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 4Hyp⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Pip⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dhp⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ktp⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8}, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 2Pal⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 3Pal⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 4Pal⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Aib², Taz⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 2Thi⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 2Fua⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Apc⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,9}, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,10}, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl), A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dab³(Octanesulfonyl), A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², A6c⁵, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A6c⁵, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Act⁶, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 3Pal⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dmt⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thz⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², A5c^{5,12}, Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,5}, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², hLeu⁵, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Cha⁵, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr⁶, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Abu⁶, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 4Hyp⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Pip⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dhp⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ktp⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8}, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 2Pal⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Aib², 3Pal⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 4Pal⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Taz⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 2Thi⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 2Fua⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Apc⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,9}, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,10}, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A6c⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁶, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Act⁶, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(3Pal⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dmt⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Thz⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A5c⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(hLeu⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Cha⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁶, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Thr⁶, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Abu⁶, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(4Hyp⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Pip⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dhp⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ktp⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁸, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(2Pal⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(3Pal⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(4Pal⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Taz⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(2Thi⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(2Fua⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Apc⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib¹⁰, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁶, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A5c⁵, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Act⁶, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(3Pal⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dmt⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Thz⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁵, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(hLeu⁵, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Cha⁵, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Thr⁶, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Abu⁶, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(4Hyp⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Pip⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dhp⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ktp⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁸, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(2Pal⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(3Pal⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(4Pal⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Taz⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(2Thi⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(2Fua⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Apc⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib¹⁰, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A6c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A6c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Act⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Dmt⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Thz⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,5}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), hLeu⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Cha⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Thr⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Abu⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Pip⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Dhp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Ktp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Fua⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Apc⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,9}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,10}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Aib⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Act⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Dmt⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Thz⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Aib⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), hLeu⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Cha⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Thr⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Abu⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Pip⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Dhp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Ktp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Aib⁸)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Fua⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Apc⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Aib⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Aib¹⁰)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A6c⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A6c⁵, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Act⁶, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 3Pal⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Dmt⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Thz⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,5}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², hLeu⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Cha⁵, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Thr⁶, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Abu⁶, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 4Hyp⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Pip⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Dhp⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Ktp⁷, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Pal⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 3Pal⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 4Pal⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Taz⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Thi⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Fua⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Apc⁹, A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,9}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Aib^{2,12}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 4Pal⁹, Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,10}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A6c⁵, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A6c⁵, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Act⁶, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 3Pal⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Dmt⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Thz⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c^{5,12}, Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,5}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), hLeu⁵, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Cha⁵, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Thr⁶, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Abu⁶, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 4Hyp⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Pip⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Dhp⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Ktp⁷, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Pal⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 3Pal⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 4Pal⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Taz⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Thi⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Fua⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Apc⁹, A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Aib^{2,9}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,10}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), A5c¹², Apc¹⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(O-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(O-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib¹, Glu³(O-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(1-Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dap³(1-Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib¹, Dap³(1-Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ava², Dap³(1-Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(2-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-5)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-6)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-7)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-5)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-6)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-7)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Arg⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Lys⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib^{2,10}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(n-Butyryl-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(n-Butyryl-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Isobutyryl-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂; and
(n-Octanoyl-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂.

5. The compound of claim 4, selected from:

(Thr⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib⁸)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), Thr⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Asp³(NH-heptyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(O-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Asp³(O-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
Cys³(S(CH₂)₉CH₃)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6})hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Act⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A5c²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Act²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², A6c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A6c⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Lys⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Dap³(Octanesulfonyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thz⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Cha⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Abu⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dhp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8})hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Pip⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,12}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 4Pal⁹, Orn¹⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-Hexyl), 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,10})hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,10}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-5)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-6)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-7)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-5)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-6)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-7)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl), Arg⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂;

(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl), Lys⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂;
 (Ac-Gly¹, Aib^{2,10}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (n-Butyryl-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (n-Butyryl-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (Isobutyryl-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂; and
 (n-Octanoyl-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂.

6. The compound of claim 5, selected from:

(Aib², 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (Aib², 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (Aib², Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (Aib², Dhp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (Aib^{2,8})hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (Aib^{2,8}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (Aib^{2,10}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-5)-NH₂;
 (Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-6)-NH₂;
 (Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-7)-NH₂;
 (Ac-Gly¹, Aib²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-5)-NH₂;
 (Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-6)-NH₂;
 (Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-7)-NH₂;
 (Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl), Arg⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂;
 (Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl), Lys⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂;
 (Ac-Gly¹, Aib^{2,10}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 (n-Butyryl-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(n-Butyryl-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Isobutyryl-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂; and
(n-Octanoyl-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂.

7. The compound of claim 6, selected from:

(Aib², 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Dhp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8})hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-5)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-6)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-7)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-5)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-6)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-7)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl), Arg⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl), Lys⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib^{2,10}, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(n-Butyryl-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(n-Butyryl-Gly¹, Aib², Glu³(NH-hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Isobutyryl-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂; and
(n-Octanoyl-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂.

8. The compound of claim 1, selected from:
(Glu³(O-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂; and
(Cys³(S-Decyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂.
9. A compound according to the formula:
(des-Ser²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂ or
(des-Gly¹, des-Ser²)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
10. The compound of claim 1, selected from:
(Aib¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A5c⁵, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Thz⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Cha⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Abu⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,4}, Ser³, 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Dhp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8}, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Pip⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib^{2,10}, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,10}, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(n-Octanoyl-Gly¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Isobutyryl-Gly¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(n-Butyryl-Gly¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(n-Butyryl-Gly¹, Aib², Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Tic⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Ser³, Arg⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂;
(Ser³, Aib⁸)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ser³, Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ser³, 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ser³, 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ser³, 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ser³, 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Tic⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib¹, Thr³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, Thr³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A5c⁵, Thr³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr³, 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr³, Thz⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr³, Cha⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr³, Abu⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr³, 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr³, Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,4}, Thr³, 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr³, Dhp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8}, Thr³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Aib², Thr³, Pip⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib^{2,10}, Thr³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,10}, Thr³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(n-Octanoyl-Gly¹, Thr³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Isobutyryl-Gly¹, Thr³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(n-Butyryl-Gly¹, Thr³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(n-Butyryl-Gly¹, Aib², Thr³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Thr³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr³, Tic⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Thr³, Arg⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂;
(Thr³, Aib⁸)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Thr³, Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Thr³, 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Thr³, 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr³, 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Thr³, 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Thr³, 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Thr³, Tic⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Tic⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂; and
(Ac-Gly¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂.

11. The compound of claim 1, selected from:

(Aib¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,6}, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(A5c⁵, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Aib², Ser³, 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Thz⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Cha⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Abu⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,4}, Ser³, 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Dhp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,8}, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Pip⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib^{2,10}, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib^{2,10}, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(n-Octanoyl-Gly¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Isobutyryl-Gly¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(n-Butyryl-Gly¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(n-Butyryl-Gly¹, Aib², Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, Tic⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Ser³, Arg⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂;
(Ser³, Aib⁸)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ser³, Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ser³, 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ser³, 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Aib², Ser³, 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ser³, 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ser³, 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂; and
(Aib², Ser³, Tic⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂.

12. The compound of claim 1, selected from:
- (Aib¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib², Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib^{2,6}, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (A5c⁵, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib², Ser³, 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib², Ser³, Thz⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib², Ser³, Cha⁵)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib², Ser³, Abu⁶)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib², Ser³, 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib², Ser³, Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib^{2,4}, Ser³, 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib², Ser³, Dhp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib^{2,8}, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib², Ser³, Pip⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Ac-Gly¹, Aib^{2,10}, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib^{2,10}, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (n-Octanoyl-Gly¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Isobutyryl-Gly¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (n-Butyryl-Gly¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (n-Butyryl-Gly¹, Aib², Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Aib², Ser³, Tic⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Ac-Gly¹, Aib², Ser³, Arg⁸)hGhrelin(1-8)-NH₂;
 - (Ser³, Aib⁸)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Ser³, Taz⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Ser³, 3Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
 - (Ser³, 4Pal⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;

(Aib², Ser³, 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ser³, 2Thi⁹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ser³, 4Hyp⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂; and
(Aib², Ser³, Tic⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂.

13. The compound of claim 1, selected from:

(Aib², Tic⁷)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂;
(Ac-Gly¹, Glu³(NH-Hexyl))hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂; and
(Ac-Gly¹, Ser³)hGhrelin(1-28)-NH₂.

14. A method for identifying a compound able to bind to a GHS receptor, said method comprising the step of measuring the ability of said compound to affect binding of a compound of any of the claims 1 through 13 to said receptor, to a fragment of said receptor, to a polypeptide comprising said fragment of said receptor, or to a derivative of said polypeptide.

15. A method for achieving a beneficial effect in a subject, said method comprising the step of administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of any of claims 1 through 13, wherein said effective amount is effective for producing a beneficial effect in treating or preventing a disease or disorder.

16. A method for stimulating growth hormone secretion in a subject in need of such stimulation, said method comprising the step of administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of any of the claims 1 through 13, wherein said compound is a ghrelin receptor agonist and wherein said effective amount is an amount sufficient to produce a detectable increase in growth hormone secretion and/or an amount sufficient to achieve a beneficial affect in said subject.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said stimulation of growth hormone secretion is indicated for treating a growth hormone deficient state in said subject, for increasing muscle mass in said subject, for increasing bone density in said subject, for treating sexual dysfunction in said subject, for facilitating a weight gain in said subject, for facilitating the maintenance of weight in said subject, for facilitating maintenance of physical functioning in said subject, for facilitating recovery of physical function in said subject, and/or for facilitating appetite increase in said subject.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said subject has a disease or disorder, or is undergoing a treatment, that is accompanied by weight loss to said subject, and wherein said stimulating of growth hormone secretion for facilitating weight gain in said subject, facilitating maintenance of weight in said subject, or facilitating appetite increase in said subject is indicated.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said disease or disorder accompanied by weight loss comprises anorexia, bulimia, cancer cachexia, AIDS, wasting, cachexia, or wasting in frail elderly.

20. A method according to claim 18 wherein said treatment accompanied by weight loss comprises chemotherapy, radiation therapy, temporary or permanent immobilization, or dialysis.

21. A method for suppressing growth hormone secretion in a subject in need of such suppression, said method comprising the step of administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of any of the claims 1 through 13, wherein said effective amount is an amount sufficient to produce a detectable decrease in growth hormone secretion and/or is an amount sufficient to achieve a beneficial effect in said subject.

22. A method for suppressing growth hormone secretion in a subject in need of such suppression, said method comprising the step of administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of any of the claims 1 through 13, wherein said compound is a ghrelin receptor antagonist and wherein said effective amount is an amount sufficient to produce a detectable decrease in growth hormone secretion and/or is an amount sufficient to achieve a beneficial effect in said subject.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said suppression of growth hormone secretion is indicated for the treatment of a disease or condition characterized by excessive growth hormone secretion in a subject, for facilitating weight loss in a subject, for facilitating appetite decrease in a subject, for facilitating weight maintenance in a subject, for treating obesity in a subject, for treating diabetes in a subject, for treating complications of diabetes including retinopathy in a subject, and/or for treating a cardiovascular disorder in a subject.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said excessive weight is a contributing factor to a disease or condition comprising hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease, gall stones, osteoarthritis, or cancer.
25. The method of claim 23, wherein said facilitation of weight loss reduces the likelihood of a disease or condition comprising hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease, gall stones, osteoarthritis, or cancer.
26. The method of claim 23, wherein said facilitation of weight loss comprises at least part of a treatment for a disease or condition comprising hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease, gall stones, osteoarthritis, or cancer.
27. A method for treating a cardiovascular disorder in a subject in need of such treatment, said method comprising the step of administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of any of the claims 1 through 13, wherein said effective amount is an amount sufficient to achieve a beneficial effect in said subject.
28. The method of claim 27, wherein said compound is a ghrelin receptor agonist.
29. The method of claim 27, wherein said cardiovascular disorder is severe chronic heart failure.
30. The method of claim 27, wherein said compound inhibits apoptosis in cardiomyocytes and/or endothelial cells.

31. A method for eliciting an effect mediated by ghrelin receptor agonism in a subject, said method comprising the step of administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of any of claims 1 through 13, wherein said compound is a ghrelin receptor agonist and said amount is sufficient to elicit said effect in said subject.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein said compound binds to one or more growth hormone secretagogue receptors.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein A³ in said compound is Ser, Glu, Dap, or Dab.

34. The method of claim 31, wherein said effect is one or more of the following: increased muscle mass, increased bone density, improved sexual function, weight gain, maintenance of weight, maintenance of physical functioning, recovery of physical function, accelerated wound healing, and appetite increase.

35. A method for eliciting an effect mediated by ghrelin receptor antagonism in a subject, said method comprising the step of administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of any of claims 1 through 13, wherein said compound is a ghrelin receptor antagonist and said amount is sufficient to elicit said effect in said subject.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein said compound binds to one or more growth hormone secretagogue receptors.

37. The method of claim 35, wherein A³ in said compound is Ser, Glu, Dap, or Dab.

38. The method of claim 35, wherein said effect is one or more of the following: weight loss, appetite suppression, and weight maintenance.

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